

# Eastern Shore of Virginia

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

#### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)  
Senator George F. Allen (R)  
Rep. Edward L. Schrock (R-2nd)

#### Contact

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#### Profile

Established:	1984
Current acres:	1,127
Staff:	7
FY 2001 budget:	\$571,000
2002 volunteer hours:	5,178
2002 visitation:	177,186
Satellite:	
Fisherman Island	1,850 acres

#### Purpose

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide important habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered species and other native wildlife. Compatible wildlife-oriented recreational activities are encouraged.

#### Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor center
- Wildlife observation platform
- Spectacular observation of monarch butterflies and migratory birds that gather to cross the Chesapeake Bay
- Hunting for white-tailed deer
- Historic WWII-era bunkers

#### Management Activities

- Research into needs for improved stopover habitat for neotropical migrants
- Manipulate old fields for migratory birds, including control of exotic and invading plant species
- Protect and manage habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Restore and enhance native understory

#### Highlights

Each fall, large numbers of migrating birds and monarch butterflies gather on the refuge until favorable weather permits crossing Chesapeake Bay.

Nearly 1,000 American woodcock winter on the refuge, increasing to as many as 5,000 during harsh winters.

The refuge's diverse habitats attract more than 300 species of birds.

Much of the refuge was formerly part of Fort John Custis. The U.S. Air Force acquired the fort in 1950 and occupied the site until 1984. Since then, most of the military buildings have been removed and replaced with grasses, shrubs and other vegetation to provide food and cover for wildlife.

The refuge encourages research and environmental education, and is involved in major raptor banding projects.



#### Issues

Recent acquisition of Wise Point Corporation land raises issues about deep water access from existing boat ramp

Potential contamination from old military base usage and major adjacent waterway transportation lines

Communications tower located in migratory bird flight path

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
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